

This is an official

## **DHEC Health Advisory**

Distributed via Health Alert Network  
26 April 2005, 5:43pm EDT

### **Cluster of *Neisseria meningitidis* cases in Pickens County**

#### **Background**

There have been three cases of *Neisseria meningitidis* cases in the Pickens county area in the last three months. Though the cases are not clinically linked, serotyping of isolates obtained from all three cases are identical. These cases have not been clustered in any one institution or specific area of Pickens county. The identical genetic pattern of the isolates obtained from these three cases suggests that a particular strain of *Neisseria meningitidis* group B is circulating in this region of the state.

#### **Clinical information**

*Neisseria meningitidis*, meningococcus, is a gram-negative diplococcus divided into several serogroups (A, B, C, Y, W135 and X). Serotyping of such isolates can determine if any particular circulating serogroup of meningococcus is common in South Carolina.

#### **Recommended guidance**

This advisory serves as a reminder that *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroup B is not contained in the vaccine, so no vaccination of contacts would be necessary. Chemoprophylaxis of contacts is still required as per standard of care.

Cases of meningococcal disease are immediately reportable by phone to the local county health department.

Submission of meningococcal isolates to the DHEC State Bureau of Laboratories is mandated for serotyping as well as serogrouping.

#### **DHEC Contact Information for Reportable Diseases and Reporting Requirements**

Reporting of cases or possible cases of *Neisseria meningitidis* is consistent with South Carolina Law requiring the reporting of diseases and conditions to your state or local public health department. (State Law # 44-29-10 and Regulation # 61-20) as per the DHEC 2004 List of Reportable Conditions available at:

[http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/docs/reportable\\_conditions.pdf](http://www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/docs/reportable_conditions.pdf)

Federal HIPAA legislation allows disclosure of protected health information, without consent of the individual, to public health authorities to collect and receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease. (HIPAA 45 CFR §164.512).

#### **Additional information**

For additional information about *Neisseria meningitidis* can be found at the following CDC website:

- [http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/meningococcal\\_a.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/meningococcal_a.htm)

## District Public Health Offices

Mail or call reports to the District Epidemiology/Disease Reports office in each district.

### Appalachia I

#### **(Anderson, Oconee)**

220 McGee Road  
Anderson, SC 29625  
Phone: (864) 231-1966  
Fax: (864) 260-5623  
Nights / Weekends: 1-(866)-298-4442

### Appalachia II

#### **(Greenville, Pickens)**

PO Box 2507  
200 University Ridge  
Greenville, SC 29602-2507  
Phone: (864) 282-4139  
Fax: (864) 282-4373  
Nights / Weekends: (864) 460-5355 or  
1-800-993-1186

### Appalachia III

#### **(Cherokee, Spartanburg, Union)**

PO Box 4217  
151 E. Wood Street  
Spartanburg, SC 29305-4217  
Phone: (864) 596-2227 ext. 210  
Fax: (864) 596-3443  
Nights / Weekends: (864) 809-3825

### Catawba

#### **(Chester, Lancaster, York)**

PO Box 817  
1833 Pageland Highway  
Lancaster, SC 29721  
Phone: (803) 283-3175  
Fax: (803) 283-0572  
Nights / Weekends: 1-(866)-867-3886 or  
1-(888)-739-0748

### Edisto Savannah

#### **(Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell)**

1680 Richland Avenue, W. Suite 40  
Aiken, SC 29801  
Phone: (803) 642-1618  
Fax: (803) 642-1619  
Nights / Weekends: (803) 827-8668 or  
1-800-614-1519

### Edisto Savannah

#### **(Bamberg, Calhoun, Orangeburg)**

PO Box 1126  
1550 Carolina Avenue  
Orangeburg, SC 29116  
Phone: (803) 533-7199  
Fax: (803) 536-9118  
Nights / Weekends: (803) 954-8513

### Low Country

#### **(Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper)**

1407 King Street  
Beaufort, SC 29902  
Phone: (843) 525-7603  
Fax: (843) 525-7621  
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-614-4698

### Palmetto

#### **(Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, Richland)**

2000 Hampton Street  
Columbia, SC 29204  
Phone: (803) 576-2749  
Fax: (803) 576-2993  
Nights / Weekends: (803) 304-4252

### Pee Dee

#### **(Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marlboro, Marion)**

145 E. Cheves Street  
Florence, SC 29506  
Phone: (843) 661-4830  
Fax: (843) 661-4859  
Nights / Weekends: (843) 660-8145

### Trident

#### **(Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester)**

4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600  
N. Charleston, SC 29405  
Phone: (843) 746-3832  
Fax: (843) 746-3851  
Nights / Weekends: (843) 219-8470

### Upper Savannah

#### **(Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Saluda)**

PO Box 3227  
1736 S. Main Street  
Greenwood, SC 29646  
Phone: 1-888-218-5475  
Fax: (864) 942-3690  
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-420-1915

### Waccamaw

#### **(Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg)**

2830 Oak Street  
Conway, SC 29526-4560  
Phone: (843) 365-3126  
Fax: (843) 365-3153  
Nights / Weekends: (843) 381-6710

### Wateree

#### **(Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter)**

PO Box 1628  
105 North Magnolia Street  
Sumter, SC 29150  
Phone: (803) 773-5511  
Fax: (803) 773-6366  
Nights / Weekends: 1-(877)-831-4647

### Bureau of Disease Control

Acute Disease Epidemiology Division  
1751 Calhoun Street  
Box 101106  
Columbia, SC  
Phone: (803) 898-0861  
Fax: (803) 898-0897  
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-847-0902

### Categories of Health Alert messages:

**Health Alert:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisory:** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**Health Update:** provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.